



WASHINGTON STATE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

Field Operation Rule Interpretation

Question: When are drawings used to select participants in card tournaments?

CITE: WAC 230-40-055 Card Tournaments

SUMMARY

Issue:

Licensees conducting tournaments routinely use a sign up log to determine which players will participate in the tournament. It is common for a licensee to have more players sign up for the tournament than they have available seats. When this occurs, a licensee may conduct a drawing to determine which participants will play in the tournament. As players sign up for the tournament they are assigned a number (recorded on the sign up log). The numbers are placed in a bin and a drawing is conducted. The 20 numbers drawn are then compared to the sign up sheet. The 20 people whose numbers are drawn will be the participants in the tournament.

Licensee may only conduct drawings to determine which players participate in tournaments. Drawings may not be conducted to fill an extra seat after the tournament has begun.

Reasoning:

This is not a gambling activity as there is no consideration at the time of the drawing. The drawing is only a means to determine which people may participate in the tournament. If there is a fee to enter the tournament, the fee is charged after the drawing has occurred. Allowing a drawing in this situation gives every player an equal opportunity to participate in the tournament.

Approved:

Cally Cass
Cally Cass, Assistant Director
Washington State Gambling Commission

Date:

7/15/05